

HENRY VIII

The Break with Rome

SCENE ONE – The Great Hall

The action takes place in Henry's great hall in Hampton Court Palace. Two thrones, one for Henry and the other for Catherine of Aragon are brought onto the performance area by four guards. They also bring on a table full of food and huge legs of chicken (see Art Pack). When the table is set, Henry enters, followed by his advisors, and sits on one of the thrones. The other throne remains empty. The guards position themselves either side of the thrones, and the advisors hand some scrolls to Henry. He reads these while the Strolling Minstrel speaks.

Strolling Minstrel enters reading from a scroll.

Strolling Minstrel.

By mid 1520s,
Henry's reign was going well.
To Catherine of Aragon,
He'd been married, so we tell.

For over twenty years,
He'd been her husband and been true.
The only cloud on his horizon,
Was no son for him to view.

He was desperate now to have a son,
His wife was getting older.
And if he was to solve this soon,
He had to now be bolder.

He was quite in favour though with Rome,
Where the Pope had now bestowed,
The name "Defender of the Faith",
Which Henry proudly showed.

So come with me and see
Just how this saga will unfold.
Will Henry ever get a son?
Let's hear the story told.

Henry.

(Pretending to bite into a chicken leg). So how's my country doing guys?

Advisor 1.

Really good, your highness. The people seem to be happy, they're not killing one other as much these days.

Henry.

(Making a face and then throwing the chicken leg onto the floor) This chicken's horrible!

Advisor 2.

Rome and the Catholic Church are happy with you. The Pope named you as Defender of the Faith. To be honest your highness, everything is looking pretty good.

Henry.

But I still haven't got a son! What can I do?

Advisor 3.

We can't really help you with that your highness.

Henry.

(Taking another bit of chicken) I've got to do something. I have to get a son.

Advisor 1.

Can you buy one off one of the peasants?

Henry.

No, I need a proper one, you imbecile.

Advisor 2.

Sorry, we haven't got a clue your highness.

Henry.

Well you'd better get a clue quickly. If not it's the Tower for you three. *(He runs his finger along his throat, and then knocks the plate of chicken onto the floor).*

The advisors gulp in fear.

Advisors.

We will do our best, sir?

Henry.

Good. Now get me a son, and get me some more chicken. I'm starving!!!!

POMPEII

The Rain of Fire

Scene One – Pompeii (Present day)

Before the song begins Alexia, Bredicus, Loothus and Dellius take up their positions on the performance space under stony, dirty coloured sheets, and pose like statues (As in Song 11). At the beginning of the song a group of tourists enter. During the song the tourists wander around the ruins of Pompeii, pointing to artefacts on two small tables and taking photos with cameras they are carrying.

SONG 1: We've Come To See Pompeii - The Tourists.

Tourist 1: (Spoken) It's history.
Tourist 2: (Spoken) It's magical.
Tourist 3: (Spoken) It's a miracle, it's here.
Tourist 4: (Spoken) It's mind blowing.
Tourist 5: (Spoken) It's marvellous.
Tourist 6: I'll need a souvenir.

We have travelled from all over the world,
 To visit this heritage site.
 It is more than just a museum,
 It's a testimony to life.

We've come to see Pompeii,
 We're on our holiday.
 We've come from all over,
 From France to Japan,
 We've come to see Pompeii.

(The balance of this song is in the main script)

At the end of the song all the tourists exit apart from two. A team of archaeologists enter the performance space carrying trowels, small spades, buckets etc.

Tourist 1. What an amazing place.
Tourist 2. Isn't it!
Tourist 1. I need to do something really important though.
Tourist 2. Oh?
Tourist 1. *(Speaking to archaeologist 1)* Excuse me? Could you tell me where the toilets are please?
Arch 1. *(Pointing)* Over there.

The tourists exit.

Arch 1. Bloomin' tourists! Always getting in the way. Is this the next section to excavate?
Arch 2. I think so. I'm looking forward to a cup of tea though. Thirsty work this digging.
Arch 3. Trust you! Always either thinking of food or a tea break.
Arch 2. I have to keep my strength up you know, and you don't want me to dehydrate in this wonderful Italian sunshine do you?
Arch 3. You've always got an answer for everything.

The archaeologists kneel down to begin work using their trowels.

Arch 1. It's amazing how well preserved the whole site is.
Arch 3. You'd be well preserved if you had been covered in volcanic ash and mud.
Arch 2. Yea.....I suppose it's a bit like a giant plaster cast. I had to have one of those on my leg a couple of years ago when I broke it. It was really funny how it happened. I was just.....

The other two roll their eyes into the top of their heads.

Arch 3. I find it amazing that it has taken around three hundred years to find just two thirds of Pompeii. It must have been vast.

The Victorian Historian

A Journey to Victorian Britain

SCENE ONE - Miss Smith's Study

The study consists of a centrally placed cubicle with two attached flats. Two schoolgirls in a school uniform (optional) enter cautiously. They carry schoolbags. Laura has a portable CD player with headphones hanging loosely around her neck, and a small camera in her bag.

Faye. Sssssh.

Laura. I am shushing.

Faye. We shouldn't be doing this.

Laura. Are you scared?

Faye. Yes, how about you?

Laura. Well if you must know...yes I am a bit.

Faye. Why are we doing this then?

Laura. Because Paula Davidson will owe us five pounds if we do.

Faye. But what happens if Miss Smith comes home early?

Laura. She won't. She takes a history club on Thursday nights. She won't be back for hours. Look, *(holding up a small instamatic camera)* all we have to do is take a photo proving we've managed to sneak into Miss Smith's house, and then we've got five pounds to spend.

Faye. Are you sure she's running a history club?

Laura. Yes of course. You know what she's like, she's weird. She stays in school late, wears those strange clothes, lives in this big, old house by herself, mad on history. I mean, what is she like? History, it's so boring.

Faye. Yes, it's nearly as boring as science. I can't stand either of them.

SONG 1: History is Boring - Faye & Laura.

Faye. History is boring
Laura. Geography is boring
Faye. Maths is pretty boring as well.
 Science
Laura. Chemistry, physics and biology
Faye. Double on Thursdays
Laura. Swell.

Both. Why do they think that this is gonna help us?
 I don't need to know about
Laura. Who!?
Both. But of all the things that bore us
 History bores us, we want something new.

(The balance of the song is in the main script)

At the end of the song the girls jump at a sound from off the performance area.

Laura. Oh no!

Faye. But you said.

Laura. I know what I said. Quick! Hide!

The girls panic, run around and finally decide to hide behind the curtains covering the central cubicle, just in time. Miss Smith enters humming to herself and then exits. The two girls emerge from their hiding place.

Faye. Phew, that was close.

Laura. She's gone upstairs. C'mon let's get out of here.

Faye. Hang on a minute, look at all this stuff.